

# The Watchman and Southron

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aimest at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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## FIRST VICTORY GAINED.

EVERY OBJECTIVE WON BY PERSHING'S FORCES.

Initial Task Assigned to American First Army Carried Out in Impressive Style, Famous St. Mihiel Salient Being Levelled and Thousands of Prisoners and Much Booty Captured—United States Soldiers Now Looking Into German Territory—Paves Way for Further Effort.

The American First Army has carried out the initial task assigned to it—the leveling of the famous St. Mihiel salient in Lorraine.

In a little more than 24 hours not only has the work been accomplished but General Pershing's men had all the important towns, villages and strategic positions in the sector within their hands and were standing on the banks of the Moselle River at Pagny, looking across the stream into German territory. And the southern outer fortification of Metz, the great German stronghold in Lorraine, were only four miles distant.

Large numbers of Germans had been taken prisoner—more than 12,000 had been counted and were on their way back to the prisoner cages—and many guns, machine guns and great quantities of ammunition and other war stores were in American hands.

From Hattenville on the north across the salient eastward to Pagny, the Americans have closed the mouth of the big sack that extended southward to St. Mihiel, trapping within it by their fast advance all the enemy forces who failed to take refuge in flight when the great bombardment of Thursday morning heralded the approach of the offensive.

In addition, along the eastern side of the heights north of Hattenville the Americans have debouched from the hill region and are astride the railroad running from Commercy to Verdun. Likewise the Thiaucourt-Metz and Nancy-Metz Railroads are in American hands.

Beginning in the northwest and crossing the salient eastward, Fresnes-les-Eparges, Hattenville, Preny and Pagny and all the ground lying between them are in American hands. The towns of Vigneulles, Thiaucourt, Pont-a-Mousson and St. Mihiel are far in the rear of the present line. Montse, the dominating height in the center of the salient and from which much trouble has been expected, fell without fighting. Among the numerous prisoners taken were men from Austro-Hungarian armies.

Although the operation of the Americans has been described as having "limited objectives," it can not but have a most important bearing on the future of the war. From the straightened line growing out of the obliteration of the St. Mihiel salient the Americans now are in a splendid position to act with their brothers in arms on sectors eastward when the time is ripe for a strike into Germany direct. Also they now are aligned on territory from which it is possible to get behind both the Meuse and Moselle Rivers and thus make null the reported plans of the Germans to stabilize their front along the Meuse should they be unable to hold the allies in the west in check.

Already allied airmen are heavily bombing the Moselle region around Metz and its outlying fortifications, having dropped many tons of bombs on the strategic railways leading from the great fortress, and it seems likely that without reason to expect that with apparent supremacy in the air Metz and the surrounding country henceforth is to be badly harassed by the allied flying squadrons.

Meanwhile the maneuvering on the west front around Cambrai and St. Quentin should not be lost sight of by reason of the present American offensive. Here the British and French daily are enlarging their gains in the process of outflanking and capturing these two important towns which are all but within their grasp. Farther to the north in Flanders the British also are keeping up their encroachments in the region of La Bassée and Armentières, both of which places are imperiled.

## NEGROES CALLED FOR SERVICE

Twenty-nine Thousand Must Report September 25-27.

Washington, Sept. 16.—A draft call for twenty-nine thousand negro registrants from 33 States qualified for general military service, to entrain for camps on Sept. 25 and 27 was issued today by Gen. Crowder.

The draft calls will take more than twenty thousand negroes from eleven Southern States, including Florida, 755 to Camp Johnston and South Carolina, 2,800 to Camp Sevier.

## BILLY SUNDAY'S SINGER.

Joins the Y. M. C. A. for Service Overseas.

New York, Sept. 15.—Homer Rodeheaver has gone to teach Pershing's men how to sing "Brighten the Corner Where You Are." Escorting his old, celebrated trombone, Billy Sunday's chorus master left in the Y. M. C. A. overseas uniform to be a soldier-song leader for the duration of the war.

"Rody" is to specialize in the one song he made famous, but incidentally will dispense other tunes outside the evangelistic line, such as "The Last Long Mile" and "Good Morning, Mr. Zip-Zip-Zip."

## 15,000 HUN PRISONERS.

GEN. PERSHING'S VICTORY GROWS IN MAGNITUDE.

French Making Vigorous Attack on Germans in Aisne Region and Gain Ground at all Points—German Counter Attacks Weak.

London, Sept. 14, 1.30 P. M.—Gen. Pershing's troops in the St. Mihiel sector have increased the number of Germans captured to 15,000.

The French began a new attack at dawn this morning on both sides of the Ailette River and between the Aisne. The attack in the direction of Coucy forest, at the southern end of St. Gobian Massif was progressing satisfactorily this morning.

South of the Ailette the French captured Mont Desiages, and the villages of Allement and Sancy, and reached the edge of the town of Vailly.

On the Aisne the French advanced between one and two miles on an eleven mile front. The German counter attack against the French on the Ailette front appeared weak, although the front line was strongly held.

The French attack was launched at 5 o'clock this morning. One division at an early hour had taken one thousand prisoners, in addition to the fifteen thousand captured by the Americans in the St. Mihiel salient, and more are coming in. The inside of the pocket has not yet been cleared, and it is expected more guns will be taken. In the attack south of the Aisne the French also made progress. The maximum depth of the new positions of the Americans in the St. Mihiel sector is 13 miles from the former line.

## AMERICANS ON AISNE.

Infantry Attack Resulted in Gain at Several Points.

With the Americans on the Aisne Front, Thursday, Sept. 12, 10 Night.—(By the Associated Press.)—The American infantry operating on this front advanced their line at several points so east of Villers-en-Prayeres, to the northwest of Revillon today.

An American raiding party which was sent out against the enemy east of Villers-en-Prayeres brought back a few prisoners.

## GAIN ON LYS.

Gen. Haig's Army Occupy Town in Le Bassee Region.

London, Sept. 14.—Gen. Haig's forces have occupied Auchy-les-Basses in the Lys sector, it was officially announced today.

Several attempts made by the Germans to recover their former positions at Gouzeaucourt and Havrincourt have proven unsuccessful. The British captured more than fifteen hundred prisoners when they took the towns of Frescourt and Havrincourt Thursday.

## VIOLENT FIGHTING REPORTED.

Berlin Has News of Battle at Havrincourt.

Berlin, Sept. 14.—The advance made by both Germany and enemy forces in the Canal Du Nord sector yesterday led to violent fighting at Mouevres and Havrincourt, it is officially announced.

Between the Lorraine Hills and the Moselle river in the St. Mihiel sector yesterday passed with moderate activity. The enemy did not continue the attack.

## FIGHTING IN RUSSIA.

Bolshevik Forces Defeat Revolutionary Forces at Simbursk.

Stockholm, Sept. 14.—The Bolshevik forces, according to telegrams from Moscow, are reported to have captured Simbursk on the river Volga, a hundred miles southwest of Kazan and their cavalry is now pursuing the counter revolutionary forces.

## BOLSHEVIKI SEEK ALLIANCES.

Russian Traitor Government Wish to Make Treaties.

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—Hints that the Bolshevik government of Russia may seek alliances with other powers are contained in a note addressed to the People's Commissaries and Soviets by the Bolshevik Premier Lenin, and printed in the Pravda of Petrograd and republished in the Local Anzeiger of Berlin.

## BAKER ARRIVES IN LONDON.

Secretary of War Completes Official Visit to France.

London, Sept. 16.—Secretary Baker arrived in London today from Paris.

## STREET CAR FARES ADVANCED.

It Costs Seven Cents to Ride on Street Cars in Anderson.

Anderson, Sept. 16.—Street car fares were advanced from five to seven cents here today.

## TWO AVIATORS KILLED.

Machine Crashed to Earth in Brooklyn Back Yard.

New York, Sept. 16.—Lieuts. Chas. Kinney, of Kentucky and E. H. Austin, of Boston, were killed when an army airplane from Lincoln Field crashed to earth in the back yard of a residence in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn today.

## NO HUNNISH PEACE.

MUST ACCEPT THE TERMS WILSON LAYS DOWN.

Reply to Austrian Proposal, if Made, Certain to Embody Conditions Contained in President's Baltimore Speech Demanding Complete Surrender of Barbarians.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Germany's latest peace feeler, advanced through Austria, it was officially stated today, best finds its answer in President Wilson's Baltimore speech delivered last April.

"Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world, and cast every selfish dominion down in the dust."

That was the president's statement then and it was reiterated today, it is his answer now.

No one doubts that it is the answer of all the allies.

While Austria's proposal last night from Amsterdam had not reached Washington in official form tonight, it is expected hourly through some neutral—possibly Sweden—and in it is realized the long heralded peace offensive upon which Germany is counting to arouse enough sentiment for peace among the people of the allied countries to compel an end of the war on terms which substantially would preserve the Prussian dynasties.

The allied leaders recognize it as an effort by Germany to obtain the best terms possible.

There will be no round table conference, no sounding out process, such as Germany proposes and such as she hopes will give opportunity probably to deal with her enemies separately.

If any reply at all is made, it will be after an exchange of views between the United States and the other belligerents so that a reply for all may be made in one. On every side American officials and allied diplomats it seems agreed that the only ground on which Germany may have a conference is the acceptance of the principles laid down by President Wilson and which have been accepted by all the allies as their watchword.

American officials have been noting for some time the various steps that have led to the proposition for a meeting at some neutral point of delegates from all the belligerent countries to enter into nonbinding discussions with a view to bringing about peace.

From German and Austrian officials of high rank, from the German emperor himself down to the vice chancellor of Germany, within the last fortnight have come public utterances, differing widely in their tone and scope, but by singular coincidence each and all containing in some place a declaration of willingness to extend the hand of peace, they were coupled with denials of responsibility for the further continuance of hostilities. Baron Burian, the Austrian foreign minister, advanced the movement toward the peace offensive further than any other speaker in his recent address to visiting German journalists, and the ideas he then broached are now recognized here as the foundation upon which has been built the proposition which Vienna now is presenting to the world at arms in a formal way.

The Washington government already has made up its mind and formed its own opinion regarding Burian's plan and it can be stated that even in the formal shape in which it is now presented it is quite as objectionable as it was originally and does not present a single point upon which the entente powers and the United States are likely to agree with the authors. Familiar notes of insincerity and underlying sinister purposes are heard by officers. In the opinion of officials here the primary object of Baron Burian and the Germans who stand behind him is to convince the Austrian and German peoples that their governments really desire peace, a course made necessary by the highly dangerous and rebellious state of mind in Germany and particularly in Austria.

This could be accomplished speedily and effectively, it is pointed out by the officials here, by an open declaration of full and unqualified acceptance by Berlin and Vienna of the 14 points laid down by President Wilson as a proper basis of peace. But this would sound the death knell of Pan Germanism; would mean the disavowal of a huge tract of territory, enormous indemnities and valuable special privileges and monopolies which the predatory central powers have wrung from Russia, not to dwell upon the recession of Alsace-Lorraine, whose wrongful seizure half a century ago, President Wilson has solemnly declared, must be righted.

Another purpose to be served by such discussions as Baron Burian proposes, it is considered, has been detected and exposed in almost every one of the preceding German peace moves. While the word "discussions" has been substituted for the "conference" originally proposed, official here without the slightest hesitation identify the purpose as another "round table" conference, such as a Brest-Litovsk marked the ruin of Russia. "Discussions," with all of the delegates assembled in one place and open to close personal influence and address, would not differ very much from a formal gathering around a table and, in fact, might be more dangerous.

So it was declared today that the United States would have none of them at this stage of the war, or any other, in advance of binding acceptance by the Germanic powers of the conditions proposed by President Wilson. With that as a basis, there

## PEACE PROPOSAL SPURNED.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT IN PARIS AND LONDON AGAINST HUN PLAN.

London Morning Papers Say Austria's Proposition is Just Another German Trick—Paris Regards It as Result of Allied Victories.

London, Sept. 16.—Austria's invitation to belligerents to meet in formal peace discussions is indignantly rejected by London morning newspapers. The note is seen by commentators as another German

## TIME NOT OPPORTUNE.

Want Peace Because They Are Losing.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The Austrian proposal for a conference of belligerents caused not much surprise in Parisian political circles, where it is considered to be a consequence of recent military successes of the Austrians. The general impression is that a peace offensive cannot now be successful.

## EMPEROR CHARLES FOR PEACE.

German Peace Note Dispatched by Order of Emperor.

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—The note in which Austria-Hungary invites all belligerents to a conference for the discussion of the possibility of peace, was dispatched by Baron Burian on the order of Emperor Charles, the Voelks Zeitung declares.

An important conference of the members of the majority parties in the Reichstag was held Sunday, relative to peace, Berlin telegrams report. It is said that deliberations will be continued today.

## BINDS AUSTRIA ALONE.

Many Taking No Part Openly in Peace Campaign.

Paris, Sept. 16.—A semi-official report from Berlin is that the Burian peace move constituted an act binding Austria alone, says a Zurich dispatch today.

## ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE ALLIES.

Foreign Secretary Balfour Expresses Opinion of Burian Peace Note.

London, Sept. 16.—British Foreign Secretary Balfour in giving his personal viewpoint on the Austrian peace note to visiting journalists said, "It is incredible that anything can come of this proposal." He also said "Coming after the recent speech of the German vice chancellor von Payre, this proposal of the Austrian government is not a genuine attempt to obtain peace, it is only an attempt to divide the Allies."

## Camp Alice Contributions.

The following contributions to Camp Alice are reported by Mrs. Nina Solomons, chairman finance committee:

Mrs. Julian Levy, electric reading lamp; Miss Marie Teicher, complete set linen and blankets for one bed; Mrs. A. D. Harby, two bushels sweet potatoes.

would be no objection to any proper consideration and discussion of even highly important details of the peace agreement.

With much interest the government here notes the statement that the vatican and all neutral nations would be notified of the peace offer. Officials here presume that this is an attempt to enlist sympathy for the peace officials who consider themselves acquainted with the methods of German diplomacy say they recognize a concealed design to include some very substantial German doctrine in some apparently harmless and high minded statements of principle.

It is known from more or less official German declarations that the central powers are willing and anxious to enter a league of nations to make future wars impossible and also to guarantee the freedom of the seas and the right of self-determination of oppressed peoples and immunity from seizure of private property at sea.

But all these altruistic principles, it is expected, would be bent to serve German purposes, if the "discussions" were to bear the fruit expected by the authors of this latest peace offensive. The league of nations involves international disarmament according to the German idea upon a scale proportioned so that the central powers would continue to be dominant from the military point of view. The freedom of the seas, from the German view, would involve the abandonment by Great Britain of Gibraltar, Malta and Suez and the other great naval bases and fortifications upon which depends the life of the British navy and the securing of British lines of communication with India and her other colonial possessions. The immunity from seizure of merchant shipping would make impossible such a splendid blockade as that by which the British, American, French and Italian navies have bottled the Germanic powers.

Finally it is considered that the sole purpose of the apparent acceptance of the principle of the right of self-determination of small nations is to accomplish the defeat of that proposition. German officials do not contemplate a relinquishment of her control of Alsace-Lorraine, nor Poland, nor Schleswig-Holstein, nor even of the border states which she wrested from Russia and she feels that the surest way to maintain her hold is to defeat this proposition of self-determination by making the independence of Ireland and India a condition of its acceptance.

## LABOR SLACKERS CENSURED.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS FORCIBLY TO STRIKERS.

Employers and Employees Will be Sternly Dealt With Says Chief Executive.

Washington, Sept. 13.—President Wilson took the war labor situation in hand personally today and applied to "lawless and faithless employees" force in keeping with drastic measures which he disclosed had been adopted with his approval in dealing with recalcitrant employers.

Striking machinists and other war plant work at Bridgeport, Conn., were informed in a letter addressed directly to them by the president, that they must return to their work and abide by the decision of the war labor board, or be barred for a year from all employment over which the government exercises control and lose all claims for draft exemption on occupational grounds.

At the same time the president announced that the plant and business of the Smith & Wesson Company of Springfield, Mass., the first employer to "flout" the rules of the war labor board approved by presidential proclamation, had been commandeered by the war department.

In effect, the president gave notice to both employees and employers that no labor controversies will be permitted to stand in the way of the production of materials needed for winning the war. The great majority of both employers and workers is co-operating heartily with the government. With the board commanding powers granted by congress, the larger measure of control exercised over all plants doing war work, the operations of the federal employment service and the far reaching war or light order of the provost marshal general, the president is prepared to see that the few inclined to stand aloof do not interfere with the output of the industrial army.

## MAY GO TO DRAFT BOARDS.

Business Agent of Bridgeport Strikers Does Not Believe Men Will Return to Work.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 13.—Striking machinists from the Bridgeport munitions plants held a mass meeting this afternoon and remained in session two hours awaiting an official copy of President Wilson's letter demanding that the men return to their work. It was announced that the president's message had not been received and adjournment was taken to 2 p. m. Monday. Strike leaders said that if the letter had been received at that time the machinists would vote on it.

Samuel Lavit, business agent of the local machinists' union, said after the meeting that if the president's letter was as drastic as indicated in press telegram, it was his opinion the strikers would accept the alternative offered to go before their draft boards for induction into the army. Strike leaders refused, however, to accept the newspaper version of the president's letter, saying "the newspapers are unreliable."

## "TO BE REGRETTED."

Frank Morrison Censures Striking Bridgeport Machinists.

Washington, Sept. 13.—Declaring that the striking machinists at Bridgeport, Conn., had furnished the first instance where organized labor had refused to comply with an award of the war labor board and that their attitude was "to be regretted," Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement today censured the men and said he assumed they would follow the advice of the president and go back to work.

## MOVING TOWARD CAMBRAI.

British Advanced on the Arras-Cambrai Road Sunday Night.

London, Sept. 16.—The British troops last night advanced on the line north of the Arras-Cambrai road, reestablishing posts in the vicinity of Sauchy-Cauchy and Oppy. It is officially announced. On the Flanders front the British pushed ahead in successful minor engagements on both sides of the Ypres-Comines canal on a front of more than two miles.

## RAID ON PARIS.

Squadrons Flew Over Region Sunday Night, Dropping Bombs.

Paris, Sept. 16.—Several enemy aerial squadrons flew over the region of Paris this morning. They were subjected to a heavy anti-aircraft fire, but they succeeded in dropping a few bombs. There were a few victims and some material damage.

## SERBIANS COME BACK.

Reorganized Army Launched Successful Attack on Bulgarians.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The launching of an offensive against the Bulgarians on the Saloniki front by the reorganized Serbian army, in cooperation with the French forces, and the capture of three strongly fortified Bulgarian positions, is announced in the official Serbian communication received today from Skopje.

The positions taken are Teak Veronik, Dobro Polje and Mountain Sokol, which the Bulgarians have held for two and a-half years and which they regarded as their strongest places. The Serbians and French had reached their objectives and were still going forward when the dispatch was filed.

## TO FIX COTTON PRICE.

"FAIR COTTON PRICE" MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD.

President Wilson Says Step Will Be Taken if Deemed Necessary After Committee From War Industries Board Has Completed Inquiry—Purchases for Government Made During Investigation.

Washington, Sept. 13.—President Wilson announced today that a fair price for raw cotton would be fixed if that should be deemed necessary after the committee to be appointed by the war industries board has completed its inquiry into the general cotton situation.

During the investigation a separate committee of three, soon to be named, will buy cotton for the use of the United States government and the allies at prices to be approved by the president. Since most of the cotton of the country is required for war uses, this government buying is expected to stabilize prices.

The president said that the purpose of the investigations to be conducted by the committee to be named by the war industries board is to devise methods for broadening the channels of distribution and use of the great stock of low grade cotton now practically unmarketable, for eliminating speculation and hoarding and apportioning foreign orders. The president's statement follows:

"The demand for high grade cotton which is out of proportion to the available supply and the fact that the government through early agreements with the Allies, must act as a common buyer for allied purchases, make it necessary to secure some basis of distribution of all grades of cotton. Based on the standard grades established by the department of agriculture an effort will be made to provide a way by which the low grade cotton will be brought to sale and use along with the high grade cotton at reasonable and just prices."

"It is believed that by this course both the producer and consumer will be better protected than by continuation of the present chaotic conditions of the market."

"The plan is to create, subject to the approval of the president a cotton committee to devise methods for (a) broadening the channels of distribution and use of the great stock of low grades now practically unmarketable; (b) eliminating speculation and hoarding and (c) apportioning the foreign orders."

"It may be part of this committee's duty to recommend basic prices on cotton. If, after investigation, it is found necessary a fair price will be fixed."

"During this investigation and in order to avoid stagnation, a separate committee of three is being set up with the authority to buy cotton for the use of the United States government and the allies, at prices to be approved by the president."

The president's statement, it was explained, was issued to avoid misinterpretation of statements by the war industries board concerning the stabilization of the cotton industry. Price fixing of cotton has been vigorously opposed by senators from Southern States, who have had several conferences with Chairman Baruch of the board. They contend that the law of supply and demand should continue to govern the price.

Decision of the president and the war industries board to investigate the cotton situation followed closely the recent announcement of the department of agriculture that droughts over the belt in July and August had reduced the probable yield from the estimate of about 15,325,000 bales to 11,137,000 bales. After this forecast was published the price of cotton rose \$10 a bale on the principal exchanges.

## GERMAN ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

Americans Meeting With Some Resistance in Lorraine.

With American Army, Lorraine, Sept. 16, 12.30 P. M.—The activity of the German artillery increased somewhat during the forenoon. No infantry attacks were made, however.

The Germans have not resisted a minor movement intended to consolidate the American line which has now become firmly fixed.

## French Take Another Town.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The town of Vailly on the north bank of the Aisne, east of Soissons, has been captured by the French, it is officially announced.

The French have continued their progress between the Oise and Aisne and captured Mont des Singes.

## AMERICANS FIGHT IN SIX LANDS

United States Troops Are on the Battle Front in France, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Austria, and Italy.

Workers at home have the responsibility of producing supplies for American soldiers now fighting in six countries—France, Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy, and Belgium. American artillery has been reported on the French line opposite Mulhausen, several miles inside the border of the German empire. The Yanks are supporting Italian sectors at the end of Lake Garda, and their flyers have maneuvered over the lowlands near Venice. In Belgium they are fighting with Australians, and they form an army corps engaged in France. They are at Vladivostok and on the Murman coast. Far-reaching in its responsibilities, labor is now put to a supreme test that will find it able to support the millions in the field.